



Town of North Smithfield Historic District Commission

Minutes of March 18, 2013

A meeting of the North Smithfield Historic District Commission was held on
Monday, March 18, 2013
in the Greenwood Room at 6:30 PM
at the North Smithfield Public Library, 20 Main Street, Slatersville, RI

Call to order: 6:38

Members Present: Daniel Couture, Gwen Cunningham, Christian de Rezendes,
Jeffrey Fontaine, Linda Frye, Jeffrey Harris, Elizabeth Martin

Members Absent: None

Materials Distributed: Agenda, Minutes, Revised Proposed letter to property owners
within historic districts

Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2013

Approval for the minutes from the February 27, 2013 was unanimously approved.

Applications

No applications to review.

Communications

- A. Briefing of Commission members re: All Boards and Commissions Summit held March 9, 2013, 8:30am-12:00 pm at MS Middle School.
Jeff H. briefed the Commission members on agenda highlights.
 - 1. Michael Cassidy of the formerly known Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor addressed legislation for recognition of National Park status- still pending.
 - 2. Representative of state delineated state's goal for consolidation of all municipalities regulations on-line; North Smithfield to be on the forefront.
 - 3. Attendees of various boards broke into small groups to discuss respective strategies, goals, and challenges.
 - 4. Consensus of attendees is that a major challenge is communication.
- B. Jeff H. stated that he received additional documentation relating to Historic District Commission from Commission's previous chairwoman Allison Peirce.

Old Business

- A. Status Update: Review final draft of proposed informational letter to all property owners within the Union Village Historic District and the Slatersville Historic District.

1. Gwen C. requested that change be made to clarify what repairs do fall within the Historic Commission's purview . Jeff H. will make change.
2. Elizabeth M. suggested a change be made to page 4, under tax incentives, currently existing on town site; Jeff H. will make change.
3. Jeff H. suggested that pages 4 and 5 be eliminated from the package as the information is already on town website. All agreed.
4. Jeff H. to email final version to all members for final review, and then release approved letter to Town Administrator. Town administration has agreed to handle the certified mailing to residents in historic districts.

New Business

- A. Discussion related to adopting the Forestdale Schoolhouse as a local Historic Property (currently under lease by the Heritage Association.) Jeff H., also member of Heritage Association, briefed Commission members on Heritage Assoc.'s request for consideration of schoolhouse as a historic property given same status as other North Smithfield's historic districts
 1. Heritage Association has leased schoolhouse for \$1. since 1973. Schoolhouse is town owned.
 2. Heritage Association has helped pay with aid of grants for furnace, and previously installed sewers.
 3. Jeff H. has asked town planner, Robert Ericson, on whether schoolhouse can be considered by itself a historic district. Awaiting reply.
 4. All commission members agreed that the schoolhouse is important to preserve as a historic place.
- B. In response to the Open Forum (re: ALL Boards and Commissions summit held March 9, 2013) Jeff H. requests that all members begin to formulate Goals, Challenges and Strategies for future of NSHDC- Annual Statement of Intentions
 1. Christian de R. sees opportunities for grant money in archiving of historic materials. Agrees that Heritage Association rather than Historic Commission is the appropriate venue for such grants.
 2. Jeff H. would like to eventually see parts of Forestdale included in a historic district (the stone post office building and the office at Stamina Mills for example), acknowledging it would be a long term goal.
 3. Dan C. would like to see the inventory of properties in the Union Village historic district be completed, so that Commission is in an optimum position to help any residents with questions or concerns.
 4. Elizabeth M. reminds the Commission that the Slatersville Historic District has a limited term, up for renewal in less than 2 years. Whether it will remain a historic district is not absolute. Should a goal be set?
- C. Subcommittee Report: Union Village Historic District Research Committee
 1. Jeff H. thanks Gwen C. for creating an excel spreadsheet summarizing committee's research on Union Village Historic District properties thus far.
 2. Remaining properties to research will be divided by Dan C. and Elizabeth M.

- D. Subcommittee Report: Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage
Commission for Certified Local Government Grant (CLG Grant Committee):
1. Meetings to be scheduled.

- E. Subcommittee Report : North Smithfield Historic District Commission
Standards and Guidelines (NSHDC S&G Committee):
1. Meetings to be scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was called to a close at 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Dan Couture

Seconded: Jeff Harris

All in favor

Opposed: None

Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2013